

points would be to give an unfair account of one of the most fascinating books which have appeared in recent years. Miss Lochhead has produced a tapestry of the eighteenth century which no one who is interested in the period, whether from an English or a Scottish point of view, will fail to enjoy. However defective her apparatus, there can be no doubt that her knowledge of the period is considerable; she has read widely, with an understanding of differing aspects of eighteenth-century life, and uses her material carefully. And she writes with a lively, readable style. Whether treating of elderflower-fritters and cowslip pudding, or ministers or books or Paisley muslin, her pages are informative and at the same time awaken an appetite for further study. Some things she treats of are usually passed over in silence, and Scottish Catholics in particular must be grateful to her for what is perhaps the most sympathetic chapter ever devoted by a non-Catholic Scottish historian to their history.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.

**THE SPANIARDS IN THEIR HISTORY.** By Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Translated by Walter Starkie. (Hollis and Carter; 16s.)

This brilliant survey of Spanish history is indispensable to all students of Spain, indeed, to all students of history, since a concept of Spain is indispensable for an understanding of history. The great patriarch of Spanish scholarship, Professor Ramón Menéndez Pidal, carries us through two thousand years of Spanish history on a basis of psychological interpretation—true, a minimal basis of psychology, but this is wise in view of the great length of time and the number of problems with which he has to deal. His basic concept of Spanish psychology is that of austerity, but other qualities are invoked from time to time. From the Spanish point of view (and thus from our point of view as Europeans rather than historians) the importance of this book is the writer's insistence (with all the weight of his authority as a scholar) on the need for the Spaniards of both sides to heal the breach between them. If all will study the past impartially and learn from it the good qualities the Spanish spirit has evinced in their great history, they may learn better to co-operate now for the future. Like Unamuno, they must become conscious of the two Spaniards each carries within his breast: the traditionalist and the liberal. The next step is to fuse the two into one and, without forsaking religion, they must extend the concern of the modern for social justice. Spain may again attain to influence and usefulness in the world if this fusion can be achieved; what that usefulness and influence can be may be gleaned from the splendid history that the author passes in review before us.

The first half of the book consists of a magnificent study by the translator, Professor Starkie (who went from the Chair of Spanish at

Trinity College, Dublin, to be Director of the British Institute in Madrid some years ago) of the author and of his principal works of scholarship. In itself, this introduction is a first-rate approach for students of things Spanish to some of the most important and fascinating problems of Spanish literature and history.

SPAIN. By Sacheverell Sitwell. (Batsford; 16s.)

Spain, Sacheverell Sitwell and a Batsford book: one's expectations are indeed raised high, nor are they disappointed. This is not a guide-book but must be placed on the reading list of all those who wish to visit and enjoy Spain and of those who without the visit and enjoyment wish to make a serious attempt to understand Spain. While not a plain record of travel through Spain, it is the result of frequent and thorough explorations, and in it the reader will find descriptions and appreciations of all the chief buildings and much of the landscape, together with some customs and *fiestas* of the country. Combined with the author's fine sensibility and exquisite style is much learning. The 111 photographs are some of the best of Spain to be found anywhere. There are some linguistic slips and some misprints—but one does not approach a Sitwell in the spirit of pedantic cavilling. The book is indispensable for all lovers of Spain and should be compulsory reading for those who are not.

EDWARD SARMIENTO.

THE LOST TRAVELLER. By Antonia White. (Eyre & Spottiswoode; 10s. 6d.)

In her first novel, *Frost in May*, Antonia White revealed an unusual acuity of perception, which was not perhaps matched by much discretion in its use. The discretion a Christian novelist must possess is not necessarily a mere tact that avoids offence: it is rather an awareness, large and untroubled, of the extent of the human mystery, and that means patience in judgment, some tolerance. Seventeen years later Miss White emerges with a second novel which shows her to be a novelist of quite remarkable power. She has lost none of her skill in detail; she has gained immeasurably in range and understanding.

*The Lost Traveller* is a study in faith. Clara is the daughter of a schoolmaster, a convert to Catholicism, univocal and unpliant of mind, married to a woman who is at once subtle and shallow. The daughter's crisis is resolved in a tragedy (which contains a marvellously observed account of a child, whose governess she is and for whose death she is to some extent responsible) and the novel turns full circle, returns to the beginning. The traveller comes back to the obligations of family and faith, realised now at their true level.

A series of brilliantly described settings—school, an old Catholic